U.S. Embassy Asuncion, Paraguay Security Message for U.S. Citizens – Upcoming Protests in Asuncion

The U.S. Embassy alerts U.S. citizens that there are demonstrations scheduled for March 16 and 17, 2016 in Asuncion. The announced purpose of the event is the yearly March of the Campesinos. They plan to start congregating in Asuncion on March 16, 2016, in the vicinity of the Parque Seminario located on Kubitschek and 25 de Mayo. The intended route of the protestors is Avenida Kubitschek to Avenida Eusebio Ayala to General Aquino onto Azara to 14 de Mayo continuing to Plaza de Armas, where they will congregate.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Paraguay enroll in the <u>State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)</u>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates and makes is easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's <u>website</u>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the <u>Country Specific Information for Paraguay</u>. For additional information, refer to the <u>Traveler's Checklist</u> on the State Department's website.

Contact the <u>U.S. Embassy</u> or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call <u>1-888-407-4747</u> toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or <u>1-202-501-4444</u> from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>, and download our free Smart Traveler App, available through <u>iTunes</u> and the <u>Android market</u>, to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Asuncion is located at 1776 Mariscal Lopez Avenue.

U.S. Embassy Asuncion contact information:

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Note: The timestamp on this e-mail message may reflect Washington, D.C., time, which may differ from local time.